

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 069109

61

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY MADRID

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

S E C R E T STATE 069109

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO, NL

SUBJECT: EC-9 ACTIVITY RE PORTUGUESE SITUATION:

NETHERLANDSVIEWS

REF: THE HAGUE 1536 (NOTAL)

1. NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR TAMMENOMS BAKKER CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN MARCH 26 FOR A GENERAL REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL AND THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. HARTMAN SAID HE UNDERSTOOD DUTCH CONCERNS THAT FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL HAD NOT BEEN AMONG THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WHO RECEIVED MESSAGES FROM THE SECRETARY ON PORTUGAL SIMILAR TO THE ONE HE HAD SENT TO FONMIN FITZGERALD. HE SAID THAT THIS OMISSION WAS NOT A DELIBERATE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 069109

EFFORT TO EXCLUDE CERTAIN COUNTRIES. RATHER, THE SECRE-

TARY'S MESSAGE HAD GONE TO THE FONMINS OF THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH HAD PARTICIPATED IN THE INITIAL INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS AT NATO ON THE RAPIDLY CHANGING PORTUGUESE SITUATION. HARTMAN EXPLAINED THAT THE MEMBERSHIP OF THIS FIRST MEETING IN BRUSSELS HAD "BEEN BASED ON THE FACT THAT THE LEADERS OF EACH (US, UK, FRANCE AND ITALY) HAD BEEN THE RECIPIENTS OF TELEPHONECALLS FROM CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT URGING RAPID ALLIED CONSULTATIONS. IT WAS THOUGHT APPROPRIATE TO INCLUDE BELGIUM IN THIS GROUP AS WELL BECAUSE ITS PERMREP WAS DEAN OF THE CORPS AT NATO. AS

THE DUTCH KNEW, THIS DISCUSSION WAS THEN QUICKLY FOLLOWED BY A FULL MEETING OF ALL NATO MEMBERS (EXCEPT PORTUGAL).

2. TAMMENOMS BAKKER EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT RECEIVING THIS CLARIFICATION AS TO WHY THE BELGIANS HAD RECEIVED THE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE WHILE THE DUTCH HAD NOT. NOTING THAT THE GON WAS SENSITIVE TO SUCH THINGS, HE SAID HE WOULD PASS ON THIS INFORMATION TO THE HAGUE.

3. READING FROM A TELEGRAM HE HAD RECEIVED FROM THE HAGUE, THE AMBASSADOR CONFIRMED TO HARTMAN THAT THE DUTCH INTENDED TO MAKE A BILATERAL APPROACH TO THE PORTUGUESE TO EXPRESS THEIR CONCERN. SINCE AN IRISH DEMARCHE ON BEHALF OF THE NINE WAS NOT POSSIBLE AT THE MOMENT, THE GON FELT IT WAS QTE OPPORTUNE UNQTE FOR MEMBERS TO DO SO INDIVIDUALLY AND HAD INSTRUCTED ITS AMBASSADOR IN LISBON TO SEE COSTA GOMES ON AN URGENT BASIS. TAMMENOMS BAKKER UNDERSTOOD THAT THE UK AND FRG HAD ALREADY DONE SO AND ADDED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HOPES THAT A JOINT EC DEMARCHE CAN BE MADE SUBSEQUENTLY.

4. DCM MAY WISH TO PASS SUBSTANCE PARA 1 TO RUTTEN. KISSINGER

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NNN

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